



Springfield-Greene County  
Health Department  
*Helping people live longer, healthier, happier lives*

**\*\*\*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 4-24-06\*\*\***

***From the Office of the Director of Health***

## **Health Department Staff Assists Public with New Pit Bull Ordinance Regulations**

Springfield-Greene County Health Department staff begins working to inform the public about a brand new pit bull ordinance passed by Springfield City Council on April 17, 2006. The ordinance seeks to protect the public by enforcing new requirements for all pit bull dogs living inside Springfield city limits.

"The problems caused by pit bulls in Springfield have steadily increased year after year until they have now reached crisis proportions," says health department director Kevin Gipson. "This ordinance is an effort to curb the growing problem and ultimately protect public health and the citizens of Springfield."

According to the ordinance, pit bull dogs may only be kept within city limits if owners follow these regulations.

- Pit bulls must be registered annually with a \$50.00 fee.
- Pit bulls must be vaccinated for rabies, as stated in existing state law and city ordinance.
- Pit bulls must be spayed or neutered.
- Pit bulls must be microchipped.
- Pit bulls must be kept in a secure, fenced enclosure while on the owner's property.
- A sign at least 8"x10" that reads "Pit Bull Dog" must be clearly displayed at all entrances to the owner's property.
- When off the owner's property, the pit bull must be leashed and muzzled.
- Owners must notify authorities within five days if the pit bull is lost, stolen, dies or has puppies.
- New litters of puppies must be registered following the same guidelines, in order to stay within city limits.

Registration of pit bulls will begin June 5, 2006, by appointment only. A phone number will be provided to the public at a later date, and on May 15<sup>th</sup> the health department will begin taking calls to schedule appointments. Registration appointments will take place at the Springfield Animal Shelter located at 4002 N. Farmer. Dogs will be microchipped by health department staff at time of registration, or the owner may provide proof that the dog has already been microchipped by a veterinarian.

Health department staff will begin enforcing provisions of the new ordinance on October 16, 2006.

For more information, call the Pit Bull Information Line at (417) 864-1166 or visit our website at <http://health.springfieldmogov.org>.

### **Media inquiries, contact:**

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